

From: chrismh@wcnet.org@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 11:01am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express my concerns and opinions as a citizen of the United States on the matter of the Microsoft antitrust settlement. I personally have read the transcripts from the entire trial and the finding of fact. The recent attempt by Microsoft to settle this matter was completely unfair and biased in favor of Microsoft. By accepting the terms of that prior settlement agreement, MORE Microsoft computers would have become established in schools, a market that is currently evenly shared between Apple Computer and Microsoft. The end result of this "punishment" would have been that Microsoft's market share would have gone UP in the education market and their competitor's market share would have gone down. What I believe, as do others as well, should be the only solution to this matter is as follows:

1. Microsoft should be divided into two independent companies sharing no officers or employees between them. One would be the company that develops the operating system and the other would be the company that develops applications. This would assure that Microsoft would have no leverage in forcing OEM computer manufacturers to bundle Microsoft applications because of unfair advantages or forced disadvantages that would be imposed on computer manufacturers who accept or refuse to bundle Microsoft applications.

2. Bill Gates should be completely removed from any position in the resulting companies, as the evidence in the antitrust trial clearly shows that he was, and is the catalyst for all of Microsoft's aggressive monopolistic/anticompetitive business practices. To further keep him from unfairly influencing these two new companies, all of his stock holdings in them should become "nonvoting" holdings.

I am a technology coordinator who uses various computers and operating systems every day. Microsoft, in my opinion and the opinion of many, is in their current position of power, not because they have produced a superior product, but because they have leveraged their monopoly illegally to gain and control market share. Please create a fair and balanced marketplace for computer operating systems and consider my suggestions.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Christopher M. Hamady
Toledo,
OH

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